

N.E.W.S. LETTER

The Official Publication of the North East Weak Signal Group – <http://www.newsvhf.com/>

July, 2014

Volume 23

Issue 4

☺☺☺**NEWS Club Picnic**☺☺☺

↑↑↑**July 12th, 2014**↑↑↑



MDS Testing At Picnic This Year: 10, 24 and 78 GHz.

DON'T FORGET

**The North East Weak Signal Group
2 Meter VHF and Above Net
Every Thursday at 8:30 PM local 144.250 MHz.
W1COT, WZ1V or K1PXE Net Control**

MEMBERSHIP in the N.E.W.S Group is \$15 per year. Apply to Tom Williams, WA1MBA. Email [tomw\(at\)wa1mba.org](mailto:tomw(at)wa1mba.org) You may download an application from our web page:

<http://www.newsvhf.com/>

The N.E.W.S. LETTER is the publication of the North East Weak Signal Group. Articles may be reprinted with proper credit given to the author and the N.E.W.S. LETTER. Send articles to Tom Filecco W1WSO, via email to w1wso.fn31@gmail.com.

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(All terms expire 2015)

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2014 NEWS CALENDAR:

July 12, 11AM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Picnic](#)

July 19-20, 1800Z - 2100Z - [CQ Worldwide VHF Contest](#)

August 2-3, 1800Z - 1800Z - [ARRL UHF Contest](#)

August 9, 2000-0000 UTC - [50 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

August 11-12 - Perseids meteor shower

August 16-17, 6AM - 11:59:59PM - [ARRL 10-GHz & up Cumulative Contest](#)

September 6, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)

September 13-15, 1800Z-0300Z - [ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#)

September 20-21, 6AM - 11:59:59PM - [ARRL 10-GHz & up Cumulative Contest](#)

September 22, 1900-2300 Local - [144 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

September 26-28 - [Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference](#)

October 1, 1900-2300 Local - [222 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

October 9, 1900-2300 Local - [432 MHz Fall Sprint](#)

October 10-11 - [New England Amateur Radio Festival - Deerfield, NH](#)

October 11, 0700-1300 Local - [Microwave Fall Sprint](#)

October 12, 8AM-2PM - [Nutmeg Hamfest & ARRL CT State Convention](#)

October 17-18 - [Microwave Update - Rochester, NY](#)

November 16 - Leonids meteor shower

November 22, 1PM - 4PM - [N.E.W.S. Group Meeting](#)

December 11 - Geminids meteor shower

Saturday July 12, 2014 -- 11am to 3pm or later.

N.E.W.S. Group PICNIC-Rain or Shine

Knights of Columbus, Picnic area and Pavilion,
371 Washington Rd., (aka George Washington Road) Enfield, CT 06082
(20 mi N of Hartford, 8 miles S of Springfield)

- Social Gathering!
- Food!
- Swap-Sell-Tailgate
- MDS Testing for 10, 24 and 78 GHz!!!
- Meeting
 - Need volunteers for 2015 VHF conference & set date.
 - ARRL 100th July 17-18-19, and we have a booth shared with the Packrats!
 - We Need Volunteers to man the booth.
 - No elections, all Officers expire in 2015
- BARBECUE - Noon to 1:00pm
 - The club will be providing the burgers, hot dogs, chips, and cold drinks.
 - If anyone would like to bring a side dish, like a salad, or dessert, please do! (Please e-mail me what you are bringing--if possible)
- Please bring any items of VHF+ interest that you would like to sell, swap, or just show off.
- Your stories and experiences--True or Not-- are all welcome.
- Show-Off Items with No VHF+ interest, but with Entertainment Value may also be appreciated or ridiculed--take your chances, just keep it clean.
- **All members, spouses, guests, and anyone interested in VHF+ operations, are welcome to attend.**

Here's the directions:

Knights of Columbus, Picnic Area
371 Washington Rd, Enfield, CT 06082
42.016N., 72.559W

>From the South or North:

I-91 exit 48 onto Rt 220 East (Elm St), then 9 lights.

Keep Left at light before Walgreens

Left At 9th traffic light from exit 48, (GiGi's vegetable stand on your right)

On to 371 Washington Rd., K of C is 1 mile on left.

-

Lost going that way? Try this:

I-91 exit 49, go south on Enfield St Rt.5

Drive 1/2 mile, take a left on Brainard Rd. (at North Thompsonville Fire Station)

Drive 2 miles, take right on Washington Rd.

K of C will be less than 1/2 mile on the right.

Presidents Report

July 2014 NEWS Letter

R. L. Frey – WA2AAU

July Meeting Topics:

- Getting Ready for the ARRL Convention
- Picnic Fun, Minimum Discernable Signal Tests

First a few thoughts about the past: The Eastern VHF conference was great! Thanks to everyone who helped out. The conference committee did a fabulous job.

Thanks guys! This year I didn't get a chance to attend the Southeast VHF Conference, but I hear it was good too. Dayton was good but the flea market is nowhere near the size it once was, but still a great event. The commercial displays are still the best in the ham radio world. We also had the sprints in April and May. We all really should make an effort to get on the air for these events. I must confess I am guilty here. They are not nearly as well attended as they once were. And finally there was the ARRL June VHF QSO Party. Sorry to keep harping on an old topic... but this year at W2SZ/1 we made a conscious effort to ask people to move to 902.1 rather than 903.1 when they asked for a 900 MHz band sked. This was fairly successful, with about half our contacts made on 902.1 MHz. In many directions on Mt Greylock, the interference from ISM license free users is 10 to 20 dB louder on 903.1 MHz than on 902.1 MHz. This problem continues to increase and the sooner we all move to 902.1, the better off we will be. Please do it now!

With regard to 902 MHz band interference, the repeater on Mt Greylock began to experience interference last autumn in late September and early October. This is of interest to weak signal operators because the repeater input is in the 902 MHz range of the band. The interference continued to bother the repeater over the winter and into the spring. Eric, KA1SUN, president of No-BARC and I did some direction finding and discovered a REALLY loud buzz all over the low end of the band coming from a mountain a few miles east of Greylock. The buzz was 40-50 dB above the noise floor on 903 MHz and still 30 dB or more on 902 MHz. The signal was vertically polarized. Eric then made some local inquiries and discovered the source was a wireless ISP operator using license free equipment in the 900 MHz band. Eric complained about the interference to the op-

erator and he changed his operating frequencies so the low end of the band is now completely clear (at least of this particular interference). So this is a success story, but finding the interference and then the operator can be very difficult. We should be vigilant and try to find these guys whenever possible, and then lodge a complaint. We do have the legal right to demand license-free users to stop interfering with amateur stations on the 900 MHz band. In this case, the operator didn't give us an argument, but even if he did, we could have complained to the FCC.

Wow... there is lots of stuff going on this summer! First of all, COME ONE, COME ALL to the annual NEWS picnic! There will be food and fun to be had by all. And bring your SHF and EHF microwave gear to see how well it works compared to others who bring their stuff. I hear we will even be testing stuff up at 76 GHz... real nosebleed territory. Then there is the ARRL National Centennial Convention on July 17-19 in Hartford, Connecticut, where NEWS will be sharing a pair of booths with the Pack Rats to show off weak signal VHF-UHF and microwave efforts in Ham Radio. Several NEWS members will be manning the booth. Come to the convention if you can. The schedule is jam-packed with lots of talks and forums. See the ARRL web site for more information. I am sure Mark, Ron and Paul and several others will have lots of news about this at the picnic. THANKS GUYS.

Unfortunately, the CQ World Wide VHF Contest is scheduled for the same weekend as the ARRL Convention, but if you are not going to the convention, consider getting on for the contest. This contest is only held on 6 and 2 meters so lots of us have commercial radios for those bands, and the contest is early enough so there just might be some E-Skip on 6 meters.

Finally don't forget the ARRL UHF contest, the 10 GHz and up contest and the ARRL September VHF QSO Party. Like I said, there is LOTS to do. Just a note, NEWS is working on getting DCR permission for our members to set up on Wachusett again this year.

Remember; please E-mail me about specific topics or speakers you would like to hear give a presentation at some upcoming NEWS meeting... Even better, if you have a topic YOU would like to speak about, please let me know. More ideas are always better than not enough. Please keep them coming. My E-mail is: rlf-bauer@gmail.com Thanks in advance for your help.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of NEWS meeting 12 April 2014
at the 40th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference
at the Baymont Hotel, Manchester, CT

President WA1AAU called meeting to order at 1725Z

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by K1AE - \$30 for permit for Mt. Wachusett for 10 GHz Contest - UNANIMOUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WA1MBA - some members have not renewed yet

Meeting adjourned 1730

-Paul, W1GHZ

Treasurer's Report

July picnic annual meeting marks the new club year, so if you have not, its time to renew for next year. Thanks to all who have renewed in advance. I just reviewed the database and am a bit surprised to see that some long time members have been tardy in not renewing for last year yet.

Paid membership and treasury levels are near their maximum which is typical for this time of year. As usual, I will be bringing a printout of the database and accept dues at the picnic. The annual meeting is also time for some elections of new officers - consider running. I have been your treasurer for a long time and will gladly hand it over to anyone who would like to (run for and) be treasurer. The job includes: handle the treasury (deposit checks, write checks), keep the membership database, communicate thanks to new members and renewals, report at meetings, and do the printing and physical mailing to the two dozen members who get their NEWSLetter via US Post.

Tom WA1MBA

23 June 2M Es opening

First station worked at 0011Z N4LI EM55cb (1033 miles). I just worked Pete on 6M less than a hour earlier, and he said "hope to work you on 2M again someday". Ha! At 0025 I worked WB5AFY EM04id (1542 miles), just as his signal began to build here. At 0047 I worked W5VTM EM25kt (1279 miles). I was still hearing W5VTM quite awhile later. Finally some excitement on the 2M band.

-73, Ron WZ1V FN31rh

Editorial: Help Grow Weak Signal

Later this month, the ARRL is holding their Centennial Convention down the road in Hartford. This event is literally in our back yard, and I know many of you will be attending, as will I. If you look at the convention's program, you will see a rich diversity of different amateur radio topics that will be discussed and presented that weekend. Some of the topics cover VHF/UHF+ Weak Signal operation, a genre of Amateur Radio that we all have an interest in.

Weak Signal, especially above 1 GHz. is a specialty in amateur radio, and not very many Amateurs participate in it. Our club's membership generally stays in the 100 person range. When compared to the Amateur Radio Community at large, that represents a small percentage of the ham population. Yet, when one looks at the basis behind the formation of the Amateur Radio Service, there are few aspects of the hobby that exemplify what ham radio is about better than weak signal operation. Looking at Part 97, we see that Amateur Radio's purpose is expressed in the following principles:

- *Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.*
- *Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.*
- *Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.*
- *Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.*
- *Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.*

Take a moment to reflect on how the different aspects of Weak Signal apply to those principles, and you will likely come up with a plethora of answers. Now think about how much fun it is to share our part of the hobby with others, and get more hams into Weak Signal. Here's the good news: You now have an opportunity to show and share weak signal with your fellow hams.

The North East Weak Signal Group is sharing a booth at the ARRL Centennial Convention with our neighbors, the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, aka Pack Rats. This is the perfect chance for us to share our aspect of Amateur Radio and get more hams involved in Weak Signal. The Convention is running for three days, and we need help staffing the booth. If you are attending the Convention, please help us out by volunteering to man the booth for a short period of time, even if it's only a couple of hours. You'll not only be helping your fellow club members, but also helping the Weak Signal community by showing fellow hams an aspect of the hobby that they probably have not been exposed to, but can enjoy even with just a Technician class license.

We don't get too many opportunities to truly demonstrate our part of the hobby to other hams. This one is too good to pass up. If you can, please volunteer at the picnic to put some time in at the Convention, or at the very least stop by the booth while for a bit to provide a break or do a quick beverage run for the folks manning it. Thank you!

73,

Tom Filecco, W1WSO
NEWSLetter Editor



Mid-Atlantic VHF States VHF Conference Sept 26-27-28

InnPlace Hotel, Bensalem, PA (soon to be a Holiday Inn)

Special Conf rate \$79/night + Tax, includes light continental bkfst

>>>NOW ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS<<<<

Early Bird Registration (\$40) now available on-line at

http://dataandwireless.com/packrat/2014_vhf_registration.php

Fri Sept 26-Hospitality and table-top selling 7P-11P

Sat Sept 28- Conference 8A-5P Pizza lunch and snacks included for paid registrants

Tentative Speakers & Tentative topics:

K3RWR-Quit Jamming Yourself and Let the Weak Signals Through!

K3TUF-SDR topic TBA

K1JT-topic TBA

K2UYH- EME topic TBA

N1JEZ- Linearization

W1GHZ-topic TBA

K2WB- The W2EA Contest station- History & operations

Group--Lumps and Bumps: What happened and how I fixed and prevent a recurrence

WA3GFZ- Station Automation

WB2RVX- Super Station Renovation

Technical equipment testing by Rohde & Schwarz

Antenna range testing--please let us know what you are bringing.

Saturday evening buffet banquet and door prizes* \$40

Sun Sept 28-8A-11A FREE to all mini-outdoor flea market

Check the web page for updates and speaker list www.packratvhf.com

Questions or paper & presentation submissions to rick1ds@hotmail.com

or call Rick [215-284-5517](tel:215-284-5517)

*You must be registered and paid for both conference and banquet to be eligible for door prizes

<http://www.packratvhf.com/>



ARRL National Centennial Convention 2014

Thursday, July 17, 2014 - Saturday, July 19, 2014

<http://arrl2014.org/>

Connecticut Convention Center

100 Columbus Blvd

Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Come celebrate! Thousands of members and friends of ARRL will gather at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, ARRL's birthplace, to celebrate the organization's first 100 years of members "Advancing the Art and Science of Radio." Founded in 1914, ARRL (American Radio Relay League) is the national association for Amateur Radio in the US and the largest organization of radio amateurs, or "hams," in the world.

Thursday, July 17, 2014

All-Day Training Tracks: (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) public service, technology, radiosport, and more!

Lunch with special guest speaker

International Guests "Welcome" Reception

Short bus trip to tour ARRL headquarters and W1AW

Friday & Saturday, July 18-19, 2014

Exhibit Hall featuring ARRL program representatives, Amateur Radio manufacturers, equipment sellers, and an indoor flea market. Hours: Friday 9 AM to 5 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM

Dozens of forums and presentations

Friday night ARRL Centennial Banquet with keynote speaker, FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, KK4INZ.

ARRL Wouff Hong Ceremony, Friday 11:30 PM

Short bus trip to tour ARRL headquarters and W1AW

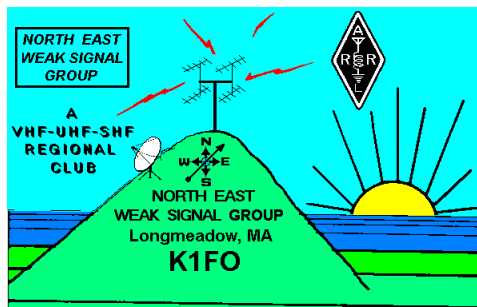
Saturday morning Presidents Breakfast

Closing ceremony Saturday evening

Sunday, July 20, 2014

No Convention Center activities

Short bus trip to tour ARRL headquarters and W1AW



Name: _____

Call sign: _____ Grid: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (home) _____ Optional (work) _____

Email _____

ARRL member? Y N Electronic Newsletter Delivery? Y N

Operational Bands (circle) 50 MHz 144 MHz 222 MHz 432 MHz 903 MHz

1.2 GHz 2.3 GHz 3.4 GHz 5.6 GHz 10 GHz 24 GHz 47 GHz

76 GHz Light Other (list)

The North East Weak Signal [N.E.W.S.]Group is being established to form a camaraderie among fellow VHF-UHF-SHF enthusiasts, and support a convenient means to exchange technical information. We currently have 6 meetings per year, held at a centrally located facility, and provide a "NEWSLETTER" that is distributed 2 weeks prior to each meeting. Any contributions to this publication are appreciated and can be sent to: Tom Filecco, W1WSO via email – w1wso@comcast.net. Dues are \$15/year. Remember, this group is formed by VHF'ers for VHF'ers.

Mail to:

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Shutesbury, MA 01072

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North East Weak Signal Group

c/o WA1MBA Tom Williams, PO Box 28, Shutesbury, MA 01072

Check your membership
expiration date on your mailing label!